



# "I'm not late for everything." Why Some People Are Always Late - BBC Reel

Source:  
<https://bbc.in/3bRAgoc>

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Watch the video twice and answer the questions below.

1. How often are Americans late to work? Do you fit this statistic?
2. Describe a "timebender" according to Grace Pacie. Where do you fall on her timebender/timekeeper bell curve?
3. How can you determine how conscientious somebody is? Are you a conscientious person?
4. How does a timebender's perception of time differ from others? Legitimate reason or convenient excuse?
5. Why are "timebenders" not late for *everything*? What are you late for? On time?
6. How does being labeled "the late one" make things worse? Who is the late one in your group?
7. How can you train yourself to be more conscientious? Could you use some training?

### VOCABULARY

punctual = doing something at an agreed upon time  
 deadline = the latest time or date by which something should be completed  
 conscientious = wishing to do one's work or duty well and thoroughly  
 hardwired = a pattern or behavior that has become standard or instinctive  
 "keep track of (time)" = remain fully aware of (something)

## SPEAKING ACTIVITY

What are your reactions to the phrases below? Discuss with a partner.

a. I am "the late one" in my group.

b. It's not possible to change your personality.

c. I am late to work at least once a week.

d. Deadlines are more like suggestions for me.

e. If you are late for something, it simply means you don't care.

f. Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.

g. Having a messy desk is a sign of creativity.

j. People from my country have a reputation for being late to everything.

i. Our personalities are set in stone early on by our genes and upbringing.

h. Time is what we want the most, but what we use the worst.

k. I would like to have better time management skills.

l. Sometimes it's good to be late.



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## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Watch the video twice and answer the questions below

1. How often are Americans late to work?

1 in 5 Americans are late to work at least once a week. Millennials are the worst.

2. Describe a "timebender" according to Grace Pacie.

A timebender doesn't like routine. We don't like tasks that are familiar, we get bored pretty easily. We can focus really well when we are interested in something and if time is tight we can work really effectively. The "timebenders" in an office have messy desks because they don't finish one thing before starting another.

3. How can you determine how conscientious somebody is?

You can measure it by asking people questions about how tidy they are, how organized they are, how punctual you, anything to do with how ordered you are.

4. How does a timebender's perception of time differ from others?

We have a different perception of time to most people. Every minute isn't the same length for us. Time can speed up and slow down. We can get deeply engrossed in something and not be aware of time at all.

5. Why are "timebenders" not late for everything?

Timebenders can be on time when it matters. What that means is that there are consequences for our being late. When there are no firm deadlines or consequences, timebenders tend to lose track of time. That tends to be social events.

6. How does being labeled "the late one" make things worse?

People who are known for being late may just assume that it's something that's so much a part of their genes and their makeup that they don't even try to correct their behavior.

7. How can you train yourself to be more conscientious?

Form a detail schedule for each day, set aside a time to organize your desk or work area, in general try to copy what people with high trait conscientiousness do, and they might lack.